

UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN
NICK LALOTA
NEW YORK'S FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Monday, May 8th, 2023

Dear {{prefix}} {{lastname}},

Thank you for subscribing to my weekly newsletter. Here you will be able to learn more about my work in Washington and at home serving Long Islanders.

We Moved to Hauppauge!

On May 1st, our District Office moved from Huntington to Hauppauge. Though our phone number has not changed: (631) 289-1097.

Our new address is: 515 NY-111, Suite 3B, Hauppauge, NY 11788. All mail en route to our former address in Huntington will be forwarded to the new office.

My team and I have been hard at work in Washington and Suffolk County and I look forward to our district staff having a new home, more towards the center of the district, in Hauppauge. I appreciate the hospitality the Huntington community has given our team and me for our first few months in office.

I encourage any resident of New York's First District who is having issues with a federal agency to contact my office as soon as possible. We are here to serve and want to help!

Bipartisan Trip to Israel

America is Israel's strongest ally and Israel is America's strongest ally. To reaffirm our partnership, I joined a bipartisan congressional delegation to Jerusalem led by Speaker Kevin McCarthy.

We met with Prime Minister Netanyahu, President Herzog, and Speaker Ohana and discussed topics ranging from security assistance and intelligence sharing to the Abraham Accords and reforms in Israel's judiciary. As a Military Veteran and member of the House Armed Services Committee, I understand and am fully committed to America's strategic partnership with Israel.

Last week, I voted in favor of [H.Res. 311](#), which would encourage the expansion and strengthening of the Abraham Accords to urge other nations to normalize relations with Israel and ensure that existing agreements reap tangible security and economic benefits.



Debt Ceiling

Recently, [I voted to responsibly](#) raise the debt ceiling, limit reckless government spending, and save over \$4.8 trillion over the next ten years.

The Limit, Save, Grow Act is a reasonable start to put our nation back on a path to economic prosperity and ensures our children have as many economic opportunities as we have had. Decades of reckless spending by both parties caused this crisis and it will take practical and thoughtful bipartisan leaders to get us out of it.

The President must acknowledge what many Congressional Democrats have and negotiate with Speaker McCarthy. I am committed to raising the debt ceiling, protecting vital programs like

Social Security, Medicare, and Veterans benefits, and continuing to chip away at our national debt.



Protecting Our Servicemembers Overseas

Our troops deserve the [same legal protections](#) as American citizens back home when they are accused of a crime overseas. This week, I introduced the [Safeguarding Our Forces Abroad \(SOFA\) Act](#).

Status of Forces Agreements (SOFA) are the compacts the Departments of Defense and State have with friendly foreign nations who host U.S. troops. My bill would require that these agreements ensure that when U.S. servicemembers are accused of a crime by a friendly foreign nation, they are afforded their basic American civil rights, such as a right to counsel of their choice, an interpreter, and a protection against pre-trial confinement when accused of a non-violent crime.

Unfortunately, existing SOFAs do not always comport with the basic rights our troops have earned and deserve. This flaw was recently revealed when [Navy Lieutenant Ridge Alkonis](#) was denied counsel and an interpreter pre-trial and jailed before his trial. For these reasons, [I introduced legislation](#) to ensure that more of our servicemembers have access to basic rights afforded to those accused of crimes in the United States.

[My bill would](#) provide necessary reforms to Status of Forces Agreements to provide critical safeguards for our troops who are at risk of being mistreated or unjustly detained. By ensuring that our servicemembers are afforded Due Process including the right to counsel, we are sending a clear message that the United States stands with and supports those who defend our freedoms. It is our duty to protect those who have selflessly answered the call to serve and sacrifice for our country.

Mr. President, Let's Protect Plum Island

[I sent a letter to President Biden](#) this week calling on him to either voice support for my [Plum Island National Monument Act](#), which aims to permanently [protect Plum Island](#), or designate the island as a national monument through Presidential powers authorized under the Antiquities Act of 1906.

Plum Island is an important and unique ecosystem that serves as a critical habitat for rare species and provides essential resources to nearby communities. My Plum Island National Monument Act is a vital step towards safeguarding this important piece of Suffolk County.

It is our responsibility to ensure that the unique ecosystem and cultural heritage of Plum Island is protected and preserved for future generations. As a supporter of conservation and protecting Suffolk County, [I am urging President Biden](#) to support my legislation and protect Plum Island.



Supporting Veterans

As a Navy Veteran whose family has lived in Suffolk for forty years, I was proud to introduce my bipartisan [PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Program Act](#). This program, named after Mount Sinai native and Iraq War Veteran PFC Joseph P. Dwyer, would create a grant program for state and local entities to carry out the Joseph P. Dwyer Veteran Peer Support Program at the national level.

The PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Veteran Peer Support Program, or Dwyer Program, is a highly successful Veteran support program that started in Suffolk County, NY. When PFC Dwyer came home, he came back with serious psychological and emotional wounds from combat.



The Dwyer Program created a peer-to-peer support program to help Veterans with challenges, like those PFC Dwyer faced, suffering from PTSD or TBI by connecting Veterans with other Veterans who are dealing with similar issues. This bipartisan legislation would help nationalize the Dwyer Program. By creating a grant program for state and local entities, more Veterans will be able to access the highly successful program and get the support they need.

The greatest nation in the world owes its greatest heroes adequate mental health care. To meet this solemn obligation, Congress must provide more funding and more programs to support our heroes when they come home. As a Navy Veteran, I know first-hand the very real mental health challenges many Service Members face and Congress must ensure our heroes know that their sacrifice is recognized and appreciated.

To read the full text of the legislation, click [HERE](#).

Expanding Access to Apprenticeships

Every year more and more Americans are realizing that they do not need to pay thousands of dollars for college to find good-paying and professionally satisfying employment.

I joined a group of thirty-five bipartisan members to introduce the [National Apprenticeship Act](#). The bill would increase apprenticeship opportunities, streamline access to apprenticeships for workers and employers, and expand apprenticeships into new in-demand industry sectors and occupations.

The bill would create nearly one million new Registered Apprenticeship, youth apprenticeship, and pre-apprenticeship opportunities over the next five years by investing more than \$3.8 billion over five years. These resources will help scale up apprenticeship opportunities, streamline access to apprenticeships for both workers and employers, and expand apprenticeships into new and in-demand industry sectors and occupations.

While we should find ways to lower the cost of college, we should simultaneously encourage more career-seekers to consider other educational and developmental opportunities.

Expanding apprenticeships will give career-seekers more options to attain their American Dream. I am proud to join colleagues from both sides of the aisle in introducing the bipartisan National Apprenticeship Act to help the next generation of American workers.

To read the full text of the legislation, click [HERE](#).

Rocky Point Mobile Office Hours

As a reminder, every Thursday my staff holds mobile office hours at the [VFW in Rocky Point from 1 pm to 5 pm](#). Walk-ins are more than welcome, but to ensure you can be seen, I encourage you to call ahead and make an appointment at 631-289-1097 or visit my website at lalota.house.gov.

The Rocky Point VFW is not an active mailbox for our office. To mail anything to my staff or me, please be sure to address all mail to our [NEW District Office in Hauppauge](#): 515 Route 111, Suite 3B, Hauppauge, NY 11788.

Sincerely,



Rep. Nick LaLota
Member of Congress

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